

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

December 3, 1976

THOMAS B. LANCE INFORMATION CONCERNING

The Department of Justice advised as follows on December 3, 1976. Early in 1976, bank examiners at the Calhoun First National Bank, Calhoun, Georgia, during a routine examination, discovered what is now described as "sloppy handling" regarding campaign expenses pertaining to Mr. Lance's political activity during his primary race for Governor of Georgia. The examiners in turn passed this information on to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, and it was then referred to the Department of Justice for examination – no recommendations were made. The Department was looking for possible violations of the following Sections of Title 18, United States Code: Section 610 (Contributions or expenditures by national banks, corporations or labor organizations); Section 656 (Theft, embezzlement, or misapplication by bank officer or employee); Section 1005 (Bank entries, reports, transactions). No violation of Section 610 was revealed and the United States Attorney in Atlanta advised that as of December 2, 1976, no violations pertaining to Sections 656 or 1005 were found. He considered the matter closed.

The information revealed separate bank funds. The bank was apparently paying campaign expenditures with its funds and billing the campaign fund at a later date. At that time the campaign fund was honoring payment. There was some question that at certain points during these procedures the campaign fund was issuing checks without sufficient funds to support same, that is, expenditures were made for more than was in the campaign account. Mr. Lance had, however, given his personal guarantee to the bank he would make good any campaign fund expenditures.

Although no criminal violation of the law was disclosed in connection with this matter, this does not preclude administrative action, if any, which could be taken by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Any decision on its part to do so would have to be obtained from that office.

Thomas B. Lance
Information Concerning

The aforementioned information was orally furnished to Mr. Matthew B. Coffey, Director of Personnel, Carter-Mondale Transition Planning Group, Washington, D. C., at approximately 1:00 p.m. on December 3, 1976.